

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2015
MEADOWEDGE, WEST SAYVILLE GOLF COURSE
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Vice Chair, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

VACANT	Member at Large
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PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Environmental Analyst II
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Christina DeLisi	Legislative Aide to Dep. Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman
Chris DeLuca	Legislative Aide to Legislator Tom Cilmi

PUBLIC PORTION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Page 2 – Commissioner’s Report – 4th paragraph – Introductory Resolution #2175 amended the Resolution to establish the North Fork **Preserve County Park** Task Force Advisory Committee and include a Parks Trustee.

A motion to accept the North Fork **Preserve County Park Task Force** Advisory Committee was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee McKay.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Leudesdorf. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson reported on the 2015-2017 Adopted Budget, distributed spread sheets for review by the Trustees and clarified questions pertaining to it.

A motion to accept the Adopted Budget was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Borden. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.

Commissioner Dawson provided a Legislative update.

At yesterday's Parks Committee meeting, Introductory Resolution #1125 which was laid on the table by Legislator Hahn and establishes a Parks Passport Program for children in Suffolk County was tabled.

Introductory Resolution #1128, amending the Capital Budget for fencing and surveying was passed and it will go before the Legislature next Tuesday.

Introductory Resolution #1129, appropriating funds in relation to the purchase of heavy duty equipment in County Parks was passed at Parks Committee and will hopefully be appropriated on Tuesday at the Legislature.

Introductory Resolution #1162, appropriating funds in relation to making improvements to lighting was passed at Parks Committee and is set to go before the full Legislature on Tuesday.

Introductory Resolution #1163, appropriating funds in connection with the removal of toxic and hazardous materials such as lead paint, oil tanks and asbestos was passed by the Parks Committee as well.

Introductory Resolution #1174 authorizes access by the MTA for its 2nd track project. The LIRR plans to expand service into the Ronkonkoma train station and there is currently one track going through Lakeland County Park. The project is not on Suffolk County Park property but an easement is needed by MTA to gain access to do the work and the Parks Department authorized a temporary agreement. The project will include the addition of a 350 foot walkway that will connect to an existing handicapped accessible walkway that goes through Lakeland County Park, near the beach area. It will also include some wetland restoration, plantings and removal of invasive plant species in the beach area. The resolution passed at Parks Committee, it will go before CEQ on Monday and the full Legislature for approval on Tuesday.

Legislator Schneiderman created a resolution again this year to designate June 20th as "Discover Suffolk County Parks Day". It will allow non-residents the opportunity to pay resident rates at the parks for the day. Last year, twice as many non-residents took advantage of the offer than residents who attended the parks that day. The idea is to encourage more people to spend leisure time at Suffolk County Parks.

Nick Gibbons continued with an update on the dredging project at Smith Point County Park and negotiations ongoing with the Army Corps of Engineers. Due to environmental conditions, there is to be no further construction work done after April 1st. Since there have been many mechanical problems, the lawsuit with the Audubon Society and many weather delays over the winter, there haven't been enough dredging days to complete the project so the Army Corps will need to return after the season ends.

Fencing of the beaches at Smith Point CP and Cupsogue CP has begun for the piping plover season.

Nick reported that he saw Larry Hines and that Larry extended greetings to everyone. Larry is doing much better and has returned to work.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hopkins requested an update on tick-borne diseases in the area. Nick reported that deer population control is being looked into. Devices such as using corn bins and treating the deer with pesticide when they come to feed has shown to be effective on a limited scale. It could work very well at Indian Island CP due to the fact that the land is a peninsula with a river on both sides and the treatment could cover several hundred acres containing deer. This idea wouldn't work very well at Cedar Point CP because it is contiguous with thousands of other acres of property.

Chair Hopkins requested an update on the Southern Pine beetle issue. Nick reported that the Parks Department has given authorization to cut down every evergreen that is either actively being impacted or could potentially spread the vector into the woods. The DEC has been treating the problem proactively to slow it down until it runs its course.

Chair Hopkins requested that Trustee Cardillo give an update on the North Fork Preserve County Park Task Force Advisory Committee. Trustee Cardillo reported that he and Nick Gibbons are serving on the Committee. There was an organizational meeting held on February 24th and another meeting was scheduled to be held at the park on March 12th but wet weather conditions resulted in re-scheduling the meeting to April 13th at 1 pm (at the entrance on North Road). At the February meeting, there was some concern expressed by the neighborhood association about ongoing drainage problems to the north of the property. Remediation is planned by DPW.

ROUND TABLE

Christina DeLisi reported that there will be a presentation on the Southern Pine beetle issue at the next Parks Committee meeting. The Legislature now has a Facebook page which will also help get information to the public as well.

Trustee Sickles requested an update at a future meeting on the bow and shotgun season since the bow season was extended this year. He inquired regarding how many deer were taken and how many permits were sold. Nick Gibbons reported that approximately 800 permits were sold this year, as opposed to 500 that were sold last year and 350 the year prior to that. He felt that the increase was due to our adding additional sites this year, such as the North Fork Preserve County Park (300 acres) in Northville and the Beagle Club in Calverton.

Trustee White thanked Commissioner Dawson and Legislator Schneiderman for attending the meeting regarding use of the Third House property and Cornell Cooperative Extension's interest in the garage area of the property.

Trustee McKay noted that the description of the Parks Trustees' duties, responsibilities and powers needs to be updated on the website. He also added that there are parks that are missing from the list of Suffolk County Parks.

Trustee McKay reported that the Town of Huntington closed on the Williams Estate property in Cold Spring Harbor. It is a joint County, Town and North Shore Land Alliance acquisition. The question arose of who gets to name the park. The Land Alliance would like to name it the Wawapek Preserve which is the historic name of the farm that used to be there. The Town of Huntington would like to go along with that also. If the County is in agreement, it would likely be named the Wawapek Preserve County Park. Trustee McKay questioned whether a property should be called a preserve if it is not technically a preserve according to the description in the Nature Preserve Handbook. Nick Gibbons responded from the County's perspective in that going by the handbook in current times limits the County in ways that it was never intended to. Things that the Nature Preserve Handbook seeks to preclude are things that are already part of responsible management today. The Handbook served its purpose when it was first published and the acquisitions of today accomplish the things

that the handbook originally set out to do. Nick added that in the absence of a Site Survey and Management Plan, a park is supposed to be managed as if it were a nature preserve which goes back to the Drinking Water Protection Programs.

Trustee Leudesdorf thanked Commissioner Dawson for his input on the Peconic Dunes project.

Trustee Cardillo reported that the staff did a great job with all the snowplowing at Indian Island CP and Sears Bellows CP this winter. He also recognized Trustee White for 45 years of service to the Parks Board of Trustees. Congratulations and many thanks to Trustee Richard White!!

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at the Red House Nature Center at Inlet Pond County Park in Greenport on Thursday, April 16, 2015.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and was seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0-0.